



KALEVI SORSA SÄÄTIÖ
FONDEN • FOUNDATION

ETHNICITY IN POLITICS THE CASE OF MACEDONIA

Time: Monday 25th May 2009 at 13.00 – 16.00
Place: Paasitorni, Paasivuorenkatu 5A, Helsinki

Ethnicity and nationalism has had a detrimental effect on the developments in the Balkans since the early 1990s. A challenge to the development of democracy in the Western Balkans is the tendency towards mono- ethnicity when it comes to civil society and especially political parties. Macedonia was the second republic to secede from former Yugoslavia - and the only one to do so without causing armed conflict. A peaceful beginning came to an end in 2001 with the conflict between Macedonians and the largest minority Albanians. After years of showing dedication to implementing the Ohrid Peace Agreement (2001) and carrying through reforms, Macedonia has the role off a successful example of multiethnic model. However, tension between the Macedonian majority population and ethnic minorities remain central in society and politics.

How have the inter-ethnic relations evolved in the Western Balkans? What are the possibilities and challenges in a society characterized by multicultural communities? How can the inter-ethnic relations and political dialogue can be promoted?

Programme

13.00 Welcome

Kaija Korhonen, Project coordinator, Kalevi Sorsa Foundation

13.30 Brief introduction to non-territorial self-determination in the Balkans

Marko Lehti, Senior research fellow at Tampere Peace Research Institute at University of Tampere

14.15 Coffee break

14.30 Political Situation and State of Civil Society in Macedonia

Marija Stambolieva, Executive director of Progres Institute for Social Democracy

15.15 The need and experiences of intercultural dialogue in Macedonian multi-ethnic municipalities

Toshe Zafirov, Project assistant of Progres Institute for Social Democracy

16.00 Closing

Registration by May 21st to info@sorsafoundation.fi